



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – OCTOBER 24, 2008

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FWP Fact Sheet Montana Wolf Relisted

Wolves are Relisted in the Northern Rocky Mountains

- A U.S. Federal District Court formally reinstated federal Endangered Species Act protections for wolves in the Northern Rockies.
- On October 14, 2008 the court granted the federal government's request to withdraw its decision to delist the wolf and dismissed the lawsuit challenging the delisting.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) withdrew the delisting decision primarily in response to issues identified by the court in July 2008.
- USFWS will gather new information and accept public comment on its February 2007 delisting proposal and on issues identified by the court in July 2008. The comment deadline is November 28, 2008. For more details and information, see the USFWS website: <http://westerngraywolf.fws.gov>.
- The USFWS is expected to review new information and public comment and make a decision sometime in 2009.

Legal Status of Wolves in Montana

- Wolves across northern Montana are classified back to endangered and wolves across southern Montana are reclassified to experimental while the litigation moves forward. See the map for the Federal Interim Wolf Management Area boundaries.
- Federal laws and regulations once again guide Montana's management of the federally protected wolf population.

Wolf Management in Montana

- FWP will retain the authority to manage wolves according to the federal regulations while federal and state efforts to delist wolves resume.
- An interagency cooperative agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants authority to FWP to implement as much of Montana's plan as allowed by federal regulations.
- FWP continues to be the lead agency for wolf monitoring, public outreach, research, and addressing wolf-livestock conflicts.
- The state program will still be funded by federal dollars.

Wolves, Livestock and Pets

- Federal regulations guide how FWP and Montana citizens can address wolf-livestock interactions in each of the two interim management areas (see map).
- Across northern Montana where wolves are classified as endangered, agency management decisions will be more conservative. Also, livestock owners or private citizens are not allowed to haze or harass wolves or kill wolves seen attacking livestock or domestic dogs.

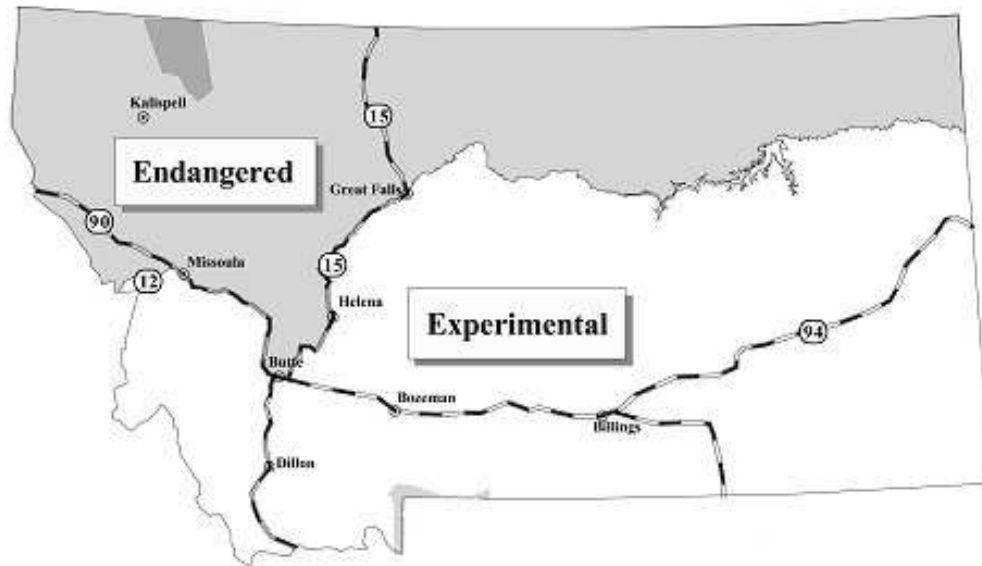


- Across southern Montana where wolves are classified as experimental, agency management decisions are guided by the 10j regulations. Livestock owners, their immediate family members, or their employees can haze or harass wolves or kill wolves they see actively chasing, molesting or harassing livestock, herding or guarding animals, or domestic dogs on public or private lands. The incident must be reported to FWP within 24 hours.
- USDA Wildlife Services agents investigate reports of injured or dead livestock and carry out FWP decisions if wolf predation is confirmed.

Wolf Hunting Season

- Federal regulations do not allow any public hunting or trapping of wolves.
- FWP and the FWP Commission had taken steps to develop a hunting season and adopt a hunting quota. However, no licenses will be sold and no hunting will occur in the Fall of 2008.

Federal Interim Wolf Management Areas



To learn more about Montana's wolf population, federal regulations, and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP at: <http://fwp.mt.gov>.

To anonymously report an injured or dead wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 458-0106 or in eastern Montana / Columbus area at: 322-4303. Or call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to USDA Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp>.